



SELECTED EVENTS - September to December 2008

Meeting President-Elect Barack Obama in Remote Vogtland



Consul Edith Backman presenting a PPT to the Rodewisch school class

December 17, 2008. Consul for Political and Economic Affairs Edith Backman traveled along with an Information Resource Center (IRC) staffer to Rodewisch and Wilkau-Haßlau for a whole day of "Meet US"-events. Kicking off with a general introduction to the U.S. Consulate, the sessions focused on the State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs-produced Power Point "U.S. Transition - Forming the next government" but also opened to Q&A touching on a variety of topics such as the election system, environmental issues, the U.S. health care system, immigration, Iraq, and Guantanamo. Beyond some 60 students and 10 teachers, "Meet US" events reached wider audiences through coverage in local media outlets such as the Zwickau and Auerbach editions of "Freie Presse" on December 18, "Vogtland-Anzeiger" and "Television Zwickau".

Chemnitz Eyes the Universe



Kid astronauts during the opening event on Dec 12, 2008 (© Nicole Jung, Archive CIM)

December 15, 2008. Leipzig Consul for Public Affairs James Seward met the director and staff of the Chemnitz Industrial History Museum (CIM). The Chemnitz museum is featuring a big exhibit on the history of space exploration entitled "Space Ship CIM - Underway in the Universe". The exhibit is filled with mementos from the U.S. space program, and looks forward to plans for exploration of the Moon and Mars later in the century. Consul Seward looks forward to further projects in 2009, which will mark the 40th anniversary of Neil "Buzz" Armstrong's first step on the moon on July 20, 1969. During his visit, Seward also gave a presentation on the recent U.S. presidential election for two high school classes from Georgius Agricola Gymnasium.

New Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Participants Gather Near Leipzig



Consul General Katherine Brucker

December 12, 2008. Consul General Katherine Brucker met with a dozen American participants in the CBYX (Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange) program in Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia. The Americans are involved in a range of activities, from studying at local universities, to practical internships in fields as diverse as production machinery, pre-school instruction and cooking. With this meeting the Consul General continued the tradition of meeting with CBYX participants and used the opportunity to explain what a Consulate General does and to answer questions about Foreign Service Careers.

U.S. Politics and Holiday Traditions Make for Good Local Mix



Katherine Brucker serving breakfast at home (© PR Agency Westend)

November 24-December 10, 2008. U.S. Thanksgiving and Christmas traditions have turned into a welcome opportunity to continue the media introduction of Leipzig Consul General Katherine Brucker. While SachsenSonntag on November 30 featured a lengthy Sunday breakfast profile of Brucker under the headline "Big politics at work at the grassroots level," Leipziger Volkszeitung on November 27 noted that the "Consul General used her cooking skills to make a case for the U.S." Brucker had hosted a small circle of contacts for a Thanksgiving dinner on November 24. On December 10, Mitteldeutsche Zeitung reported on the Consul General's initial meeting with the Lord Mayor of Halle, Dagmar Szabados. Commerce Germany, the official publication of the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany, featured Katherine Brucker as the new diplomat in the Leipzig district in its nationwide December edition.

Consul General Follows Footsteps of American Music Students in Leipzig



Library Director Dr. Wiermann (left) and Consul General Katherine Brucker

December 5, 2008. Consul General Katherine Brucker visited Leipzig's University of Music and Theater where she met library Director Dr. Barbara Wiermann, who gave her a tour through the library. Its archives showcase valuable treasures of library and archival documents such as registrations and final certificates of students, including numerous Americans. Consul General Brucker provided information about the Consulate's products and services to the librarian and presented U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs brochure 'American Popular Music'.

U.S. Publications in Demand by Future Teachers



Teacher checking product samples

December 3 and 8, 2008. Information Resource Center (IRC) staff engaged the current classes of Leipzig teacher trainees of English in a dialog on teaching materials for use in class. The specialized briefings focused on agency and mission products and services. The teachers identified intercultural understanding, the American way of life and the American dream as the primary issues that are still somewhat difficult to discuss due to a lack of current and up-to-date text books. The presentations catered to the needs of the young teachers by alerting them to resources such as the IRC reference service and the Newsletter for English Teachers.

America Celebrated in Wintery Erzgebirge



Students examine Oregon ballot at Annaberg-Buchholz public library

December 1, 2008. Leipzig Consul for Public Affairs James Seward made two presentations on U.S. politics and the election for high school students in the ancient mining town of Annaberg-Buchholz, in the heart of the snow-covered Ore Mountains region. Consul Seward also met the city's mayor and other citizens at the annual "America Day," which took place at the city library. Interest in the recent election and the new administration remains high; the announcement that Hillary Clinton will be the new Secretary of State and that Robert Gates will remain Secretary of Defense drew questions about Barack Obama's choice of former political opponents and members of the opposing party.

Boost for Intercultural Dialog in Leipzig



Book cover

December 1, 2008

Internationally known American historian Natalie Zemon Davis presented her book *Leo Africanus* (original title: *Trickster Travels, a Sixteenth-Century Muslim between Worlds*) to an audience of about 70 Leipzigers. Supported by literary historian and critic Sigrid Löffler, the 80-year-old pioneer of intercultural research took her listeners on a journey into the world of African and European Renaissance, which - in its facets of intercultural exchange and dialog - proved to be amazingly close to today's readers. Main character of the book al-Wazzan (most commonly known as Leo Africanus in the West) was one of the Renaissance's greatest geographers and the author of *The Description of Africa* (1550), a bestseller across Europe.

Eastern Daily Features Farewell Interview with Ambassador Timken



Ambassador William R. Timken Jr. at 4th of July celebration

November 28, 2008. In an interview under the headline "The course was right" in *Thüringer Allgemeine Zeitung* on November 28, Ambassador William R. Timken Jr. took stock of his tenure in Germany, the Bush presidency, the recent election and his engagement in eastern Germany. Ambassador Timken underscored the ongoing importance of German-American relations which is also reflected in the close economic ties between the two countries. He also mentioned that it had been important for him to visit the eastern German states to make up for the gap in relations with this part of Germany.

Native Americans Featured in Leipzig Exhibition



Consul James Seward and Grassi Museum Director Claus Deimel

November 27, 2008. Leipzig Consul for Public Affairs James Seward presented the Grassi Ethnological Museum in Leipzig with a collection of 15 poster reproductions from the Edward S. Curtis' photo collection "Visions of Native Americans" -with a preview of the poster show on display. The occasion was the grand opening of a major exhibition entitled "The Americas" from the Grassi Museum's vast collection of objects from the native inhabitants of North and South America. Leipzig Consulate supported the museum's exhibition with a grant.

Strength of U.S.-German Relations Emphasized



Mayor Andreas Böer and Consul General Katherine Brucker at Reichenbach library

November 26, 2008. Leipzig Consul General Katherine Brucker spoke at the Reichenbach (Saxony) public library on the election results and the transition period. The audience of some 30 adults came not only from Reichenbach but also from the surrounding area. There was keen interest in the voting results by demographic sector, the historical significance of electing an African-American, and how U.S.-German relations would develop with the new administration. Consul General Brucker also discussed the Consulate's work in general, our efforts to promote better understanding of the historically strong ties between the U.S. and Germany, and our focus on outreach to youth.

Consulate Welcomes District Fulbrighters to Leipzig



The group during the tour of the Museum

November 26, 2008. Consul for Public Affairs James Seward and Consul for Political and Economic Affairs Edith Backman welcomed 12 Leipzig district-based American Fulbright Teaching Assistants at the Forum of Contemporary History Leipzig. After presentations by the American officers and various German Consulate staffers on the work of the Mission and Consulate - including the "Meet US" school outreach program - the group posed questions and an interesting discussion ensued. The discourse continued during lunch at Leipzig's student club "Moritzbastei". The day concluded with a guided tour of the Contemporary Forum's new permanent exhibit on German postwar history, with a focus on the division of Germany.

Leipzig Reaches out to Dresden Librarians



Consul James Seward (left) as he presents "Beyond Light - American Landscapes" to Dr. Thomas Bürger

November 25, 2008. Consul for Public Affairs James Seward and Leipzig Information Resource Center (IRC) staff, accompanied by IRC coordinator Nancy Rajczak from U.S. Embassy Berlin, visited the Dresden State and University Library to meet with Director Dr. Bürger and four of his staffers responsible for press and public relations, online databases, and digital projects. In the evening, the screening of the "Hollywood Librarian" took place at the library – its first showing ever in the Leipzig Consulate General district. While Dr. Bürger welcomed the audience of about 40 librarians, Consul James Seward introduced the movie and took questions from the audience after the showing.

Transition Cooperation Highlighted



Consul James Seward on the left and the audience

November 25, 2008. Nearly 200 11th and 12th graders at the Martin-Rinkart-Gymnasium in the Leipzig suburb of Eilenburg listened to Leipzig Consul for Public Affairs James Seward discuss the recent election and the current transition. As an example of the close cooperation between the current and incoming administrations, Consul Seward, drawing on a White House press release, noted that President Bush had talked with President-elect Obama about the decision to safeguard Citicorps from Air Force One even as he was flying home from the just-completed ASEAN Summit in Peru.

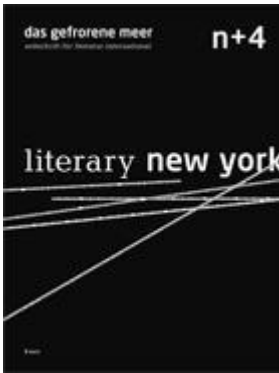
Consulate General Leipzig Creates New Outreach Model



Consul James Seward during the Q&A session

November 24, 2008. Consul for Public Affairs James Seward accompanied by an Information Resource Center (IRC) staffer discussed the U.S. election system and the results of the 2008 presidential election with a mixed group of 20 teachers and some 20 upper grade students at the Delitzsch high school. The discussion took part in the framework of the school's internal continuing education efforts. It was the first time that Leipzig Consulate briefed a mixed group of teachers of different subjects – i.e. English, history, social studies, and geography – in a joint session at one school.

Meet the Author



Cover of N+4 Literary New York Edition

November 20, 2008. *Literary New York* – an American bilingual special of *das gefrorene meer*, a Dresdenbased magazine on international literature and arts, which Consulate General Leipzig supported – was launched with an evening combining readings with the screening of new short art films. U.S. poet Christian Hawkey, one of twelve young Americans featured in the edition, introduced some of his writings and discussed them with an audience of about 80 literary enthusiasts. Additional original texts are available under <http://www.dasgefrorenemeer.de/aktuell.html>.

Smooth Election, Harmonious Transition



Consul Seward explains what a voter must vote on

November 19, 2008. In the city of Heiligenstadt in Thuringia's Eichsfeld region, some 50 students of the Georg-Lingemann-Gymnasium heard about and discussed the U.S. election with Leipzig's Consul for Public Affairs James Seward. Stressing the smooth election and the transition from one administration to another already in full swing, Consul Seward explained to the students how the U.S. Constitution not only sets out the legal and institutional framework for the government of the United States, but provides for the peaceful and predictable transfer of executive power every four or eight years.

Taking Information to the Public



Visitors showing great public interest in Education USA information

November 19, 2008. Leipzig Consulate General supported a USA Information Day at the International School in Dresden. Representatives from the U.S. Embassy in Berlin and the Consulate General in Frankfurt also took part. They answered questions from German, American and other nationals on visa, tax and social security issues. The USA Day served as a forum to get out the word on the Electronic Travel Authorization System (ESTA) that will go into full operation on Jan 12, 2009.

Presidential Transition Center of Attention



Consul Seward explaining the ballot

November 18, 2008. In two separate events on November 18 at the Grenzland Eichsfeld museum on the western border of Thuringia, Leipzig Consul for Public Affairs James Seward talked with students and with the general public – altogether about 50 persons -- about the U.S. presidential campaign and the current transition process. While Germans have heard much about the election campaign and the candidates, little attention has been paid to the practical business of transferring executive power from one set of hands to another. Echoing President-elect Obama's words that we "have only one president at a time", Consul Seward explained that the president-elect's biggest job before his

inauguration on January 20 is to find the right people to fill several thousand leadership positions in the executive branch of the government.

Sachsen-Anhalt Teachers Learn About November 2008 Election



Consul Seward Seward presenting the books to Ines Gonschorek, librarian at Magdeburg Public Library

November 13, 2008. Leipzig Consul for Public Affairs James Seward addressed 35 English teachers from all over the state of Saxony-Anhalt, 15 students from Magdeburg University's American Studies Department and their Professor, Holger Kersten, as well as Georg von der Gablentz from the German-American Dialog Center on the November 2008 election. The event was held at the Magdeburg Public Library, an America@YourLibrary partner since 2006. The library director Peter Petsch welcomed the group. Leipzig's Information Resource Center (IRC) Director Thea Bohse talked briefly about IRC activities, Consulate programs such as MEET US and internships, introduced information available to the teachers, and distributed the CD-ROM "About the USA". Consul Seward presented several new American books on the election to the librarian, who organized the

workshop in cooperation with the local school authorities and the Consulate.

Leipzig Consul General Part of Business Dialog



Consul General Katherine Brucker talking to business representatives

November 12, 2008. Leipzig Consul General Katherine Brucker attended her first Investors Roundtable (Investorenstammtisch) in Saxony-Anhalt, a regular gathering of local politicians and representatives from regional companies in the three German states in Leipzig's consular district. The event in Bitterfeld – as usual organized by local Radio SAW – focused on business developments at EverQ, a major solar enterprise in Thalheim (Saxony-Anhalt) with partial U.S. ownership, and the impact of the financial crisis in the region. Leipzig Consul General Katherine Brucker underscored Saxony-Anhalt's attractiveness as a business location and pointed out that 250 U.S. companies have created 38,000 jobs in the state since 1990.

Focus on Russia, Georgia and Ukraine



Prof. Neuss, Vice President Adenauer Foundation, introduces Dr. Weitz

November 11, 2008. Dr. Richard Weitz from Hudson Institute discussed with an interdisciplinary, knowledgeable audience of about 200 students and faculty at the Technical University Chemnitz the international implications of the 2008 election with a special emphasis on U.S. policy towards Russia, Georgia and Ukraine. The lecture was part of a series on Russia hosted by Prof. Beate Neuss, Vice President of Germany's Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

Consulate General Leipzig Teams up with Chemnitz A@YI Partner to Support Teacher Workshop



Sächsische Bildungsagentur Chemnitz

November 11, 2008. Leipzig Consulate General staff contributed a presentation on Internet-based resources about the USA and discussed educational opportunities for teachers and high school students in the U.S. at a workshop for English teachers, that was conducted in cooperation with the Chemnitz public library (America@your library partner), the Chemnitz English teacher coordinator and the local school authorities, Sächsische Bildungsagentur Chemnitz.

Social Worker Connects Students from Both Sides of the Atlantic



German and American students practicing a dance together

November 10, 2008. Driven by the desire to continue the exchange of ideas and projects that was initiated during her International Visitor Program "Minority Youth Outreach & Civic Education" in September 2007, social worker Isa Isensee took the lead and convinced local school authorities to agree to a bilateral exchange of students between her home school in Leipzig, Saxony, and the American school that had hosted her. Consul for Public Affairs James Seward welcomed the first group of American students visiting from Baltimore on November 10 and encouraged them to take in as much as possible of German life and culture.

High School Students Wowed by Obama



Consul General Katherine Brucker talking to students - Wolfen school club

November 10, 2008. Consulate General Leipzig staffers Birgit Kaemmer and Mechthild Hoelker joined Leipzig Consul General Katherine Brucker and Specialist for Political and Economic Affairs Andreas Fuerst for a big event organized by the Wolfen school club and the Heinrich-Heine-Gymnasium Bitterfeld in Saxony-Anhalt. In the presence of local dignitaries including the mayor and several members of the state parliament, Katherine Brucker discussed a wide range of issues including the election with about 100 attending students. The Consul General also pointed out that president-elect Obama does not take office until January 20, 2009, and that his top priority now is selecting his new team. Consulate staff added information on education opportunities and on Internet resources available for background about

U.S, economy, geography, history, and other topics.

Bringing Librarians up to Speed on U.S. Resources



The American Studies subject specialist of TU Chemnitz university library studying consulate' hand-out materials

November 7, 2008. Leipzig Information Resource Center (IRC) staff offered the first ever workshop for 13 information professionals at the Technical University Chemnitz, including the American Studies subject specialist. The director of the University Library Chemnitz, Angela Malz, welcomed the group. In addition to the presentation of Leipzig Consulate General products and services, the revamped IRC workshop covered expert recommendations on how to do research on the U.S. and where librarians can turn for professional resources. The IRC director donated a set of books on the presidential election to the American Studies Department.

Teacher Workshop under America@Your Library Umbrella



The winners of the election quiz prizes

November 6, 2008. The Information Resource Center (IRC) teamed up for the second time with the Erfurt Public Library on a teacher workshop, which was also certified by the Thuringian School Authorities. In her welcome remarks, Erfurt Library Director Monika Waldheim underscored the importance of the A@YL partnership, founded in 2006. Following an IRC overview of mission products and services, Scott Galvao - an American citizen living and working in Leipzig - introduced his home state New Mexico, and explained the presidential election to the 28 English teachers in attendance. With the small book collection handed over by the IRC Director, the library will be able to bring its U.S. collection up to date.

51 Elections - One President



Students filling almost every seat in the large auditorium

November 6, 2008. About 500 students and staff of Martin Luther University (MLU) as well as interested Halle citizens discussed with Prof. William Chandler his analysis of the Presidential election 2008. Chandler, Professor of Political Science at the University of California, San Diego, discussed the decisive elements of the election campaign, including the role of the economic crisis, key groups in the campaign, the use of new technologies, demographic changes, and the numerous urgent issues ahead for the transition process and the new administration. On the occasion, Consulate General Leipzig also presented the MLU's Institute of Political Science with a selection of books on the U.S. political system as well as Information Resource Center (IRC) election resources.

Overwhelming Public and Media Interest in Historic U.S. Election



Consulate General Leipzig's election party

November 4-5, 2008. Some 350 invited guests and numerous media representatives flocked to Leipzig Consulate General's election party at the headquarters of ARD affiliate Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk (MDR) on November 4 to follow the results, as they came in, of an historic election. The event featured a presentation for High School kids on the election and a high-level panel discussion on expectations from a new administration on both sides of the Atlantic. Throughout Eastern Germany interest in the election among media representatives and the general public was unparalleled with record requests to Consulate General Leipzig to explain the U.S. election process and its manifold implications. In order to satisfy this interest, Consulate Leipzig drew on all available resources in-house, arranged interviews with U.S. experts and guests in the run-up to and during the election and thus generated a wealth of coverage.

Dr. Martin Luther King's Legacy Honored on Reformation Day in Weimar



Consul James Seward at Herder Church in Weimar

October 31, 2008. "Ich habe einen Traum" ("I have a dream") was the theme of the celebration and discussion honoring Doctor Martin Luther King. The event was organized by the Evangelische Akademie of Thuringia, with the support of the Consulate General Leipzig. In his remarks, Consul for Public Affairs James Seward emphasized that Martin Luther King's dream was not just for Americans, but represents the hopes and aspirations of people throughout the world for freedom and justice. A program of song was provided by American soprano Wendy Waller.

Konrad Adenauer Foundation Grantees Discuss Election



Consul for Public Affairs James Seward talking to alumni of Konrad Adenauer Foundation

October 30, 2008. Consul for Public Affairs James Seward and Leipzig University Professor Crister Garrett led a lively discussion of the U.S. presidential campaign and prospects for Germany from a new administration with 25 former and current grantees of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. The audience was especially interested in changes in foreign policy that might be expected from a new administration. Both Seward and Garrett stressed that while the candidates certainly differ in style and emphasis, the big issues will remain the same.

Presidential Election Fascinates Thuringians



Consul James Seward shows what a ballot looks like to students of the Gymnasium in Schmalkalden

October 28 & 29, 2008. Consul for Public Affairs James Seward spoke on the U.S. election with an audience of about 30 at the City Library in Erfurt and 90 plus students at the Philipp-Melanchthon-Gymnasium in Schmalkalden. Adults and students alike still have many questions about the campaign and electoral mechanics, but are shifting more of their attention beyond November 4 to the impact a new administration will have on Germany.

Images of the U.S. in Eastern Germany



Consul General Katherine Brucker

October 28, 2008. Leipzig Consul General Katherine Brucker joined Dresden International School Director Chrissie Sorenson for a one-hour radio special on MDR 1 Radio Saxony to talk about their impressions of Saxony and German-American relations. In addition to describing what Americans think of when someone mentions "Germany," the two detailed the warm reception both enjoyed since arriving in Saxony in late summer. With the presidential election only a week away at the time, they also explained the electoral system in the United States, from registration and campaigning, to conduct of the election itself as well as the Electoral College.

Jena Good-Bye With David Mamet



Prof. Kurt Müller

October 28, 2008. Kurt Müller, since 1992 American Literature professor at Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena, and a close working contact of Consulate General Leipzig bid farewell to students, colleagues, friends and cooperation partners on October 28. After 16 years in Jena, where he helped reform American Studies at one of Germany's oldest universities (founded in 1558), Kurt Müller delivered a lecture on David Mamet's play *Oleanna*, set in context with social, political, philosophical and cultural developments in the 20th century. University officials and American Studies scholars from other universities alike honored Kurt Müller's efforts to promote American Studies and the huge impact he has had on the lives of generations of American Studies students.

Focus on the 2008 Election in Dresden



Students at Technical University Dresden

October 27, 2008. Prof. Paul Rundquist (formerly Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress) and Prof. Jürgen Wilzewski (TU Kaiserslautern & Vice President German Association for American Studies) discussed with an interdisciplinary audience at the Technical University Dresden the international and domestic implications of the 2008 U.S. election. While Prof. Rundquist analyzed - among other topics - how the recent economic crisis has influenced the election campaign, Prof. Wilzewski stressed foreign affairs, security policy and transatlantic relations. In the subsequent Q&A session, about 120 students and staff mainly from Dresden's School of International Studies (ZIS), the American Studies and Political Science departments compared and challenged the respective German and American perspectives.

Promoting ESTA on the Airways



David Stewart in the MDR Studio

October 27, 2008. One million listeners of MDR 1 Radio Sachsen learned about ESTA, the electronic system for travel authorization, which will become effective on January 12. The radio special featured Berlin Consular Officer David Stewart who made a persuasive pitch for the new entry rules as making travel to the U.S. “easier, faster, more convenient and less bureaucratic.” Stewart also pointed out that the number of German tourists to the U.S. is still on the rise thus demonstrating America’s ongoing attractiveness to German visitors.

Pittsburgh-Chemnitz Link



President Prof. Matthes (right) and Dr. Feldkamp

October 24, 2008. The President of the Technical University Chemnitz, Prof. Klaus-Jürgen Matthes, and Dr. Jörg Feldkamp, Director of the Industrial Museum, opened an academic symposium dealing with various aspects of industrialization, industrial culture and de-industrialization. The event compared problems and solutions of the Pittsburgh region with Saxony and other places as well as depiction in literature. Organized by the American Studies Department of TU Chemnitz and supported by the Consulate General Leipzig, the symposium attracted about 130 scholars and students from all over Germany and was embedded in a big exhibit in the Industrial Museum.

Diverse Images of America on Display in Halle/Saale



October 24, 2008. Theme of the Werkleitz Biennale media arts festival this year was “Amerika”, featuring European and American films from early silents to modern features, contemporary art and workshops examining the image and perception of America for Germans. In remarks at the opening festivities, Leipzig Consulate General’s Consul for Public Affairs James Seward praised the organizers for choosing to take a critical look at the perceptions and misperceptions of America that result from the United States’ overwhelming presence in the media, arts and music.

Cultural Diversity in the Arts Celebrated in Leipzig



Hermann Freiherr Speck von Sternburg (GRASSI Museum für Völkerkunde/ Archiv)

October 23, 2008. Leipzig’s Grassi Ethnographical Museum marked the publication of a catalog of the museum’s collection of Tibetan and classical Chinese Art. The extensive collection was assembled in the late 19th century by Hermann Freiherr Speck von Sternburg, one of Germany’s most prominent diplomats of the epoch, Ambassador to the United States and friend of Theodore Roosevelt. Consul for Public Affairs James Seward delivered remarks to an audience of some 200 persons, thanking Wolf-Dietrich Speck von Sternburg for donating the collection of his illustrious great-grandparent. The Grassi museum will open a major exhibition of American art and photography in November, supported by the Consulate General.

U.S. Election Still Top Draw in Leipzig Consular District



Rainer Mueller (left) and Consul Seward

October 13, 2008. Local interest in the U.S. election remains high, but the focus of attention is shifting away from the process and towards what the new administration might have in store for Germany. This tendency was particularly notable at an event with the International Friends of Dresden, a panel discussion entitled "The US Presidential Election -- What Does It Mean for Germany." Leipzig Consul for Public Affairs James Seward and Dr. Werner Patzelt of the Dresden Technical University fielded many questions about prospects for Germany from the new administration. Consul Seward stressed that while each candidate will certainly have his own approach to the major issues, those issues will be the same as those that face both countries now -- terrorism, Iran, Afghanistan, Russia/Georgia, climate change, and now, the financial crisis.

Consul for Public Affairs Honors WWII U.S. Flight Crew in Eisenberg



Consul for Public Affairs James Seward

October 13, 2008. Consul for Public Affairs James Seward laid a wreath at a memorial near the Thuringian city of Eisenberg, to honor a member of a B-17 Flying Fortress crew, who was killed with 7 of his fellow crew members when the aircraft went down in February, 1945. The visit took place at the request of the last surviving relative of Staff Sgt. Raymond Reiss, who asked that Reiss be honored on what would have been his 82st birthday, Oct 13. Staff Sgt. Reiss's B-17 crashed on a hillside after a midair collision with another U.S. aircraft; the pilot struggled to maneuver the plane away from Eisenberg and other populated areas, saving many lives. This tragedy has brought the citizens of Eisenberg and the U.S. closer together over the years.

German Youth Station Hot on Information About Election



William Drozdiak talking to youth radio reporters

October 7, 2008. Thirteen radio reporters from MDR Sputnik youth radio, including station manager Eric Markuse, took the opportunity to question a journalist colleague, William Drozdiak, former Washington Post Bureau Chief and now President of the American Council on Europe, about the upcoming U.S. election. In his presentations and answers Drozdiak outlined the specifics of the 2008 vote: the breakthrough in terms of gender, race and age, new technologies, youth registration as well as small donations. In Drozdiak's view, "the biggest mistake Obama could make would be to become too defensive."

New Leipzig Consul General Visits Leipzig A@YL Partner



Consul General Brucker (right) and librarian Mrs. Geyer at the music library

October 1, 2008

Leipzig Consul General Katherine Brucker visited the Leipzig Public Library to meet Dr. Arne Ackermann, Library Director and Heike Scholl, Public Relations staffer. Consul General Brucker discussed program opportunities in the context of 20th anniversary of German reunification in 2009. She donated a set of Lincoln books to the library and agreed on a "Meet US" program with reference to Lincoln's 200th birthday / President's Day in February 2009. Following the discussion, Consul General Brucker got a brief tour through the library with special emphasis on the famous music library. It is well known through news reporting in Leipzig that she is a member of the Leipziger Oratorienchor.

Connecting with the Media



The group of trainees at MDR

state of U.S. journalism. As a highlight, they got a look behind the scenes into diplomatic work in their discussion with new Consul General Katherine Brucker and Consul for Public Affairs Jim Seward.

September 25, 2008. Leipzig Consulate staffer Rita Wallace conducted the 5th full-day workshop for trainees from Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk (MDR), the ARD affiliate and public broadcaster for Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, and Thuringia. The group of ten aspiring radio and TV journalists, who were internally selected by MDR from more than 500 applicants, learned about the Consulate's mission, activities, services, and products. In addition, U.S. guest professor Paul Rundquist explained the intricacies of the U.S. election process, and Fulbrighter/journalist Josh Ward relayed his observations about the

Targeting English Teachers and Students



Elections 2008. The Long Campaign

policy implications and the election as part of the U.S. democratic process. In addition, Leipzig consulate staffer Mechthild Hoelker talked in Bad Berka about new resources of Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs, including the new "America.gov" website and Internet sources related to the U.S. presidential election.

September 23, October 1, and October 8, 2008. Consulate General Leipzig hosted a total of 130 teachers of English and 210 high school students from all over Saxony and Thuringia at in-service training seminars in Bad Berka (Sept. 23), Löbau (October 1) and Chemnitz (October 8). U.S. speaker Prof. Paul Rundquist introduced teachers and students to the full spectrum of election-related issues by explaining not only the election system and primaries, but also foreign and security

U.S. Presidential Election Featured at an "America@Your Library" Partner in Görlitz



Consul for Public Affairs James Seward talking to students at Europe-Library in Görlitz

September 23, 2008. Consul for Public Affairs James W. Seward traveled to the eastern border of Saxony to address 15 students of the Görlitz ESO language school at the Europe-library, one of Consulate's A@YL partners. Seward explained the Consulate's work and programs, talked about his diplomatic career and the presidential election campaign 2008. Consul Seward's presentation, mostly in English for the benefit of the language students, was followed by a lively Q@A discussion in German. Dr. Dippe, head of ESO language school, welcomed Seward and attended the program as did the Consulate's nominee for the "Eastern German Teachers Visitors Program", Mrs. Dietrich, English teacher from Augustus-Annen-Gymnasium Görlitz, who will join the program in October 2008.

"Das Rätsel Amerika" in Leipzig and Görlitz



Werner Peters (left) and Consul for Public Affairs James W. Seward at Görlitz Public Library

September 22 and 23, 2008. Author Werner Peters' read from his insightful analysis of what "makes America tic" at the "Bibliotheca Albertina" University Library in Leipzig and the City Library in Görlitz. The readings were followed by lively discussions, in Leipzig with Consul General Katherine Brucker taking part, and in Görlitz with Consul for Public Affairs James W. Seward. The Leipzig event, co-sponsored by the Consulate and the American Chamber of Commerce, drew an audience of around a 100; in Görlitz the Consulate sponsored the reading for an audience of 25 adults, in cooperation with the Fifth "Sächsische Literaturtage" (Saxony Literature Days) reading festival; the reading was one of very few non-fiction readings in this festival, which concentrates on literature.

Middle America Meets Middle Germany



Gräfenhainichen students and Consul Jim Seward

September 16, 2008. 15 students and their teachers from the Paul-Gerhardt-Gymnasium in Gräfenhainichen, Saxony-Anhalt, gave a presentation to their parents and Consul for Public Affairs Jim Seward about their recent 17 day trip to Springfield, Ohio, the first phase of a school partnership exchange sponsored by the sister city program with Springfield, Ohio. Consulate General Leipzig has been involved in this program from its inception. The students bubbled over with zest describing the overwhelming variety of impressions and the depth of the information they brought back from their trip; they concluded with a remarkably well-done, upbeat video permeated with

enthusiasm about United States. Consul Seward expressed his gratitude to the students, their parents and teachers for doing so much to bring their communities in Ohio and Saxony-Anhalt together.

American Heartland Takes Root In Dresden's Art Scene



Consul Jim Seward presents book to Ina Böhning, Kunsthaus Raskolnikow e.V./Galerie

September 12, 2008. Leipzig Consul for Public Affairs James Seward cemented the Consulates' ties with Dresden's avantgarde artistic community at a welcoming reception for American artist Melissa Vogley-Woods at the Raskolnikow Art Gallery. Vogley-Woods has begun a three-month residency at the Gallery, under the auspices of the Dresden/Columbus, Ohio sister-cities program, with the support of the Columbus Greater Arts Council and the Ministry of Science and Culture of the State of Saxony. For more than 10 years the partnership between Dresden and Columbus has maintained a lively exchange of German and American artists. In his remarks to the gathering of artists and patrons, Consul Seward praised the exchange program as a vital component in Saxony's growing ties with the United States. Melissa Vogley-Woods's unique art combines the American folk craft of

patchwork quilting with thoughtprovoking artistic expression.

"Born of Fire - Pittsburgh and Saxony in Works of Art" in Chemnitz



Aaron Harry Gorson, Industrial Scene, Pittsburgh, 1928

September 5, 2008. The Westmoreland Museum of American Art, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, in cooperation with the Industrial Museum of Saxony, Chemnitz, celebrated the opening of a joint exhibition of paintings by German and American artists who chronicled in painting and photography the age of industry in Pittsburg and in Chemnitz. The two cities' iron and steel production, foundries, mills and manufacturing plants played a key role in the industrial history of Germany and America. James Seward, Consul for Public Affairs, thanked the American representatives of the Westmoreland Museum and the Industrial Museum's director and staff for creating such a powerful exhibition in a perfect location – the museum itself was formerly a cast-iron foundry. Seward noted the remarkable parallels in the industrial history of the cities and remarked how each city had successfully coped with shock of the shut down of traditional mills and plants.